

# State of Connecticut

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## PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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Dear Workplace Coordinator,

As you may know, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women has planned *Take Our Daughters, then Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day* at the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building for many years. This year, we've decided to retire our usual activities in favor of an approach that we hope you'll agree will be both interesting and informative for participants.

This day was established by the Ms. Foundation to encourage girls and boys to think beyond gender limitations about their work and family lives. On *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day*, we feel it is important for workplaces to provide children with activities that not only reflect this goal, but that also shed light on their parent's daily responsibilities. We are excited to offer the enclosed information for use in your office as a means to get back to the original intent of this day.

We encourage you to use the provided information to plan your own Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day for your agency. Enclosed you will find many great resources, including:

- A "Shaping the Future" Activity Book;
- A list of state agencies we've collaborated with in the past for you to possibly partner with;
- Background information on Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day; and
- An Excused Absence Form for participants.

While the national date for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is April 27, 2006 your agency may choose to hold your day during school vacation. Whatever you choose best of luck to you in your planning! Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

Barbara Potopowitz  
PCSW Public Information Officer



Thursday, April 27, 2006



The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is pleased to provide your agency with this list of possible activities as you plan Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day 2006 for your office. We have worked with these groups in the past to offer fun and educational activities throughout the day.

### Contact Information:

- **CT Department of Environmental Protection—Displays and Demonstrations on Solar Panels and Clean Energy**  
Lynn Stoddard  
(860) 424-3236
- **Bushnell Theater— Theater Tours**  
Dawn Peterson Jones  
(860) 987-6078  
or  
Gwen Howard  
(860) 987-6033

### Continued:

- **BioBus**  
[www.ctbiobus.org](http://www.ctbiobus.org)  
(203) 777-8747
- **Ms. Foundation**  
[www.ms.foundation.org](http://www.ms.foundation.org)  
[www.daughtersandsonstowork.org](http://www.daughtersandsonstowork.org)

MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN

# Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> Day

Shaping the  
Future

## Activity Book

*A Take Home Activity Book for Girls and Boys Participating in the  
Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> Program*



MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Shaping  
the  
Future

## ***Are you ready to Shape the Future?***

If you said **yes**, then the Ms. Foundation for Women's Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® program and the *Shaping the Future* Activity Book is just for you! If you said **no**, then along with the workplace you are attending and the adults in your life, we will help you get the tools and/or information you need that will enable you to shape your future work, home, and community life.

You may be wondering, "How can I shape the future?" First, you need to figure out who you are, what you like, what you want your work, family, and community life to be like in the future, and then you have to decide how to make it happen. Lastly, think about what type of world you want to live in. Based on your thoughts and answers, you can begin to create the person you want to become and to form the world you envision.

The Ms. Foundation has been producing public education campaigns for nearly 15 years in order to support your hopes, dreams, and interests. Each activity designed in this book represents the themes we have created since 1993. We launched Take Our Daughters To Work® in 1993 to make girls visible, valued, and heard. In 2003, we evolved the award-winning program into Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® to help both girls and boys across the nation discover, among other things, the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life.

We hope that through your using the *Shaping the Future* Activity Book, you not only will explore some of the questions you have about your future but also will begin to consider what impact you want to make in life. In addition, we encourage you to embrace all of your interests you discover from doing the exercises and support other individuals whose interests may be different from your own.

Your success begins with you. Take this opportunity to identify what will make your school, work, family, and community life successful.

Remember, your future rocks!

All the best,

*LaWanda J. Abel*

LaWanda J. Abel

Program Manager, Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work®

Ms. Foundation for Women



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### **1993 Did You Know?**

**5**

Read facts about the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® program, the world of work, and other interesting information.

### **1993 Who Do You Think You Are?: Acrostic**

Use the letters of your own name as a starting point to describe your positive qualities.

**6**

### **1994 Making Her Dreams Mean Business: Life Map**

What job do you dream of doing when you grow up? Do you know what it will take to make this dream come true? Map out steps to get you from here to there.

**7-8**

### **1995 From Good Girls to Great Women: Matching Quiz**

How many great American women do you know about? Take this quiz to find out.

**9**

### **1996 Vote For Me: Campaign Speech**

You're running for the Mayor of your city or town. Write a speech to let voters know why you are the best person for the job.

**10**

### **1997 Years of Work Toward a Lifetime of Confidence: Self Quiz**

With self-confidence, it's easier to take a risk, try something new, and to stay true to yourself in the face of peer pressure.

Take this quiz to find out how confident you are today.

**11**

### **1998 Imagine a Day: Word Unscramble**

Unscramble 12 words that relate to creating a new and better world. Then, using your answers, solve a challenging riddle.

**12**

### **1999 The Future Is Me: News Story**

Draw or write a news story featuring you and something you hope to accomplish someday.

**13**

### **2000 Free To Be You and Me: Gender Roles Quiz**

Some people have strong opinions about the roles males and females should play in society. Do you? Take this quiz with a friend or family member and compare your answers.

**14**



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<b>15</b>	<b>2001 Girl Force: Cartoon</b> Create a cartoon featuring the amazing smarts, skills and superpowers of girls to tackle problems, gargantuan and small.	<b>2002 Change the Way the World Works: Advice Columnist</b> You are an advice columnist for a city newspaper. When something gets out of balance in a person's home life, work life, or both, they write to you for advice.	<b>16-17-18</b>
<b>2003 A New Generation at Work: Draw Your Future</b> 20 years from today, how will you be changing the world for the better both on and off the job? Picture this in two drawings.	<b>2004 Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality: Crossword Puzzle</b> What work do you picture yourself doing in the future? The possibilities are endless! Complete this puzzle to learn about just a few of them.	<b>2005 Sharing Power &amp; Possibilities: Word Search</b> Find hidden words that describe personal qualities that will help you work well with others both on and off the job.	
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>2006 Shaping the Future: Action Plan</b> You are already an important member of lots of different communities. In five simple steps, identify actions you can take to change things for the better in the world, starting today.	<b>Answer Key</b>	<b>Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Program Form</b> Tell us your thoughts about the program for a chance to be featured on our Web site and/or promotional materials.	
<b>22</b>	<b>Shaping the Future Activity Book Evaluation Form</b> Answer these questions to help make next year's activity book bigger and better.	<b>24</b>	
	<b>23</b>		



## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2005, 16.2 million employed Americans participated in **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day**.
- Almost 82 percent of adults aware of **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day** believe that the day is an educational experience for participating youth.
- 2.9 million companies participated in **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day** in 2005.
- 8.8 % of children speak a language other than English at home. Spanish is the most common language spoken at home.  
– *Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being"*
- 3 million items are checked out of public libraries items each day.  
– *TV Free America*
- 88.1% of workers commute to work by car, with only 8.7% of them carpooling.  
– *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "American Housing Survey for the United States: 2003"*
- 3,536,000 people work at home.  
– *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "American Housing Survey for the United States: 2003"*
- In households where there are pets, 36.1% have a dog, 31.6% have a cat, 4.6% a pet bird, and 1.7% a horse.  
– *United States Census Bureau, 2001*
- The top five fastest-growing jobs by salary in the United States are computer software engineers, network systems and data communications analysts, environmental engineers, physician assistants, and post-secondary teachers.  
– *CareerBuilder.com 2005*
- The total number of students in private and public schools in the United States is 69,818,000.  
– *U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics"*
- From Kindergarten to Eighth Grade, there are 33,952,000 students in public schools and 4,880,000 in private schools.  
– *U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics"*
- Per week, the average number of hours worked is 42.9 hours.  
– *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003*
- 7,315,000 of all American workers have more than one job.  
– *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003*
- The top five snack foods for children were fresh fruit, potato chips, gum, ice cream and chocolate candy.  
– *NPD Foodworld*





## 1993 WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

When you look in a mirror, who do you see? You, obviously! But how do you see yourself? Are you more likely to focus on, your strengths or on your limitations? Our thinking powerfully influences how we feel about ourselves. It's as if our thoughts are a magnifying glass, increasing whatever we focus on—so it is really important to focus on the positive!

Write your first and last name vertically in the box below. Use the letters to write words that describe your positive qualities. Here's an example:

S	ociable
A	rtistic
M	usical
J	okey
O	pen minded
N	uts about science
E	nthusiastic
S	omeone you can count on







## 1994 MAKING HER DREAMS MEAN BUSINESS

What job do you dream of doing when you grow up? You might dream of being a chef, pilot, electrician, artist, symphony conductor, surgeon, college professor, photographer, fire fighter, you name it! Whatever your dream, do you know what it will take to make it come true? In other words, do you know how to get from here to there?

When you set off on any journey, it's wise to have a map in hand to help you chart your way. Fill in the "dream map" below. Start by writing your name at the start and your dream job at the finish. Then fill in the squares and triangles. The squares are stepping stones that take you where you want to go. The triangles are stumbling blocks that trip you up and get in your way: avoid them at all costs!

Here is a list of possible Stepping Stones and Stumbling Blocks. You can choose from this list and/or come up with examples of your own.

Do homework	Do drugs	Talk on the phone all night	Take courses in math and science	Break the law, land in jail
Select a college	Graduate from high school	Study	Find a mentor	Get terribly sick
Watch tons of TV	Dog eats homework	Lean on friends	Earn money for college	Apply to college
Get thrown out of college for cheating	Talk to someone doing the job that interests me	Break a leg	Get special training	Eat well and exercise
Finish middle school	Drive drunk	Do research about this job	Graduate from high school	Do summer work similar to dream job



## MY DREAM MAP

Your Name

As you travel along the path to your dream,  
don't forget to enjoy each step along the way!

Your Dream Job

### TAKE ACTION!

- After you've made your map, share it with a friend or an adult to make sure you haven't skipped any important steps. Take a step toward your dream, starting now: finish your homework, go online or to the library and find out more about your dream job, spend a day "shadowing" someone in this line of work, etc.



## 1995 FROM GOOD GIRLS TO GREAT WOMEN

How many great American women do you know about? Take this matching quiz to find out.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ___1 Clara Barton<br>(1821-1912)        | a. As a girl, I was passionate about animals. I became a primatologist and in my memoir <i>Gorillas in the Mist</i> I tell about living with gorillas in Africa and battling their poachers—illegal animal hunters.                                      |
| ___2 Juliette Gordon Low<br>(1860-1927) | b. When I voted in the 1872 presidential election, I was arrested and fined \$100 (a lot of money then!). I organized a huge campaign that eventually won women the right to vote. I was the first woman to be depicted on U.S. currency: a dollar coin. |
| ___3 Harriet Tubman<br>(1820-1913)      | c. I knew I wanted to be a doctor all my life, particularly since I had a serious illness as a child and teenager. In 1990 I became the first woman and the first Latina Surgeon General of the United States.   |
| ___4 Mae C. Jemison<br>(1956— )         | d. I recently retired as the first female justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. I am also a mom with three sons.  |
| ___5 Wilma Mankiller<br>(1945— )        | e. During the Civil War, even though nurses weren't allowed on the battlefields, I went anyway to help the wounded and dying soldiers. I later founded the American Red Cross.   |
| ___6 Maya Lin<br>(1959— )               | f. In 1992, I became the first African-American woman to enter space on the crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavor. I earned an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, went to medical school, and served in the Peace Corps too.                     |
| ___7 Sandra Day O'Connor<br>(1930— )    | g. In 1980, after my 13-year-old daughter was killed by a drunk driver, I fought for stricter drunk driving laws and founded MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD now has chapters in all 50 states.  |
| ___8 Susan B. Anthony<br>(1820-1906)    | h. I was one of the 20th century's most famous choreographers and modern dancers. In 1929, I started my own dance company in New York City, named after myself.  |
| ___9 Martha Graham<br>(1894-1991)       | i. I was chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe.   |
| ___10 Candy Lightner<br>(1946—)         | j. I was a runaway slave and became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad that helped lead slaves to freedom. During the Civil War, I served as a soldier, spy and nurse for the Union army.   |
| ___11 Dian Fossey<br>(1932-1985)        | k. I am an artist and architect. When I was in college, I won a national contest (beating 1,420 other people) to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. I also designed the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.              |
| ___12 Antonia Novello<br>(1944— )       | l. Known as "Daisy," I established the first troop of Girl Guides in 1912 in my home town of Savannah, Georgia. Thanks to my hard work and enthusiasm, this grew into the Girl Scouts of America.  |

### TAKE ACTION!

- Have a "Great Women" party. You and your friends each come as a great woman.
- Design and give a "great woman" award to a great woman you know.
- Log onto the National Women's Hall of Fame ([www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org)) to learn about more great American women.



## 1996 VOTE FOR ME

The race is on! You're running for the Mayor of your city or town. (You might someday!) Look around your neighborhood. What in your neighborhood do you care about the most? Who needs help? What needs changing for the better? Fill in the blanks of the following campaign speech to let voters know why you are the best person for the job.

### MAYORAL CAMPAIGN SPEECH

#### I. Personal Introduction

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm running for Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_  
I grew up in \_\_\_\_\_ where I... [Write something about your family, hobbies or interests that will show voters you're down-to-earth and can relate to ordinary people] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### II. Leadership Qualities

I have what it takes to be a leader. I am \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. Your Main Mission

I want to be remembered as the Mayor who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and I have a plan to make this happen. [Write one or two specific ideas of how you'll make this happen]:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### III. Personal Hero

I couldn't have gotten here without the inspiration/help of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
[Write a sentence about what you've learned from this person]: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### V. Strong Ending

Vote for me! [Write down your campaign slogan or a powerful sentence to conclude]:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### TAKE ACTION!

- Read your speech to family members and get their feedback.
- Create a poster or bumper sticker advertising your mayoral campaign. Be sure to include your name, along with your campaign slogan, a campaign symbol, or anything else you think will catch voters' attention.
- Call or write the mayor of your city or town and talk to him or her about the things you'd like to see changed for the better right now.



## 1997 YEARS OF WORK TOWARD A LIFETIME OF CONFIDENCE

Everybody agrees that it's good to be self-confident. But what does this mean exactly? According to the dictionary, self-confidence is "a feeling of trust in one's abilities, qualities and judgment." With self-confidence, it's easier to take a risk, try something new, and to stay true to yourself in the face of peer pressure.

Take this quiz to find out how confident you are today. Read the statements and circle your answer, either 1, 2 or 3.

	Always	Sometimes	Rarely
1. I set positive goals for myself. ....	1	2	3
2. I am able to accept criticism without getting upset. ....	1	2	3
3. I let people know what I think and feel, even if I'm angry or in disagreement with someone else. ....	1	2	3
4. I ask for help when I need it. ....	1	2	3
5. I don't worry about what other people think of me. ....	1	2	3
6. I like meeting new people. ....	1	2	3
7. I believe I am a valuable friend. ....	1	2	3
8. If I make a mistake, I admit it and try to learn from it. ....	1	2	3
9. I like trying new things—a sport, food, game, a new language, etc. ....	1	2	3
10. In general, I am happy with myself. ....	1	2	3
11. I am happy when something good happens to a friend. ....	1	2	3
12. I know I can make a positive difference in this world in my own unique way. ....	1	2	3
13. I tend to see the good in any situation. ....	1	2	3

Add up all the circled numbers. TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you scored between 13 and 18:** You got it! Go out and do great things today. Help boost someone else's confidence too—encourage their dreams or pay them a compliment.

**If you scored between 19 and 25:** Keep focusing on your positive qualities, trust in yourself, and take time to develop both old and new interests.

**If you scored between 26 and 32:** Try something new today—bring a friend along for support (and fun). Write down the positive qualities you admire in one of your favorite people, then develop these qualities you.

**If you scored between 33 and 39:** You could use a confidence boost! Talk to an adult you trust about what is special about you. Do a good deed for someone else and notice how this makes you feel.



## 1998 IMAGINE A DAY

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create." — Albert Einstein

There are plenty of problems in the world that need imagination to solve. Each of the 10 scrambled words relates to creating a new and better world. Unscramble each word.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>RUEC      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when there's a ____ for cancer.</p>                               |
| <p>NAMWO      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>1    14    7</p>   | <p>clue: Imagine a day when a ____ is President of the United States.</p>                |
| <p>RACEDYA      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">18</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when every workplace has ____ for working parents.</p>            |
| <p>IKMN      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>15                      9</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when no one wears ____ coats or animal fur as clothing.</p>       |
| <p>CEAR      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when no one is discriminated against because of their ____.</p>   |
| <p>LPUTNOIL      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>2                      12</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when cars use fuels that don't cause ____.</p>                    |
| <p>LUBELIS      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">16</p>   | <p>clue: Imagine a day when all ____ turn into buddies.</p>                              |
| <p>LCEEVNOI      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>11                      20</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when every city is free of ____.</p>                              |
| <p>I IETNTONCX      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>17                      13                      6</p> | <p>clue: Imagine a day when not a single animal is threatened with ____.</p>             |
| <p>IURFT      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>19                      5</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when all farmers grow ____ without harmful pesticides.</p>        |
| <p>SOBOK      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>  | <p>clue: Imagine a day when school children everywhere have all the _____ they need.</p> |
| <p>CAPEE      <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>   | <p>clue: Imagine a day when there is ____ everywhere on earth.</p>                       |

To solve the final riddle, copy the letters in the numbered boxes above into the boxes with corresponding numbers below.

**Once you've imagined a day, then what?...**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

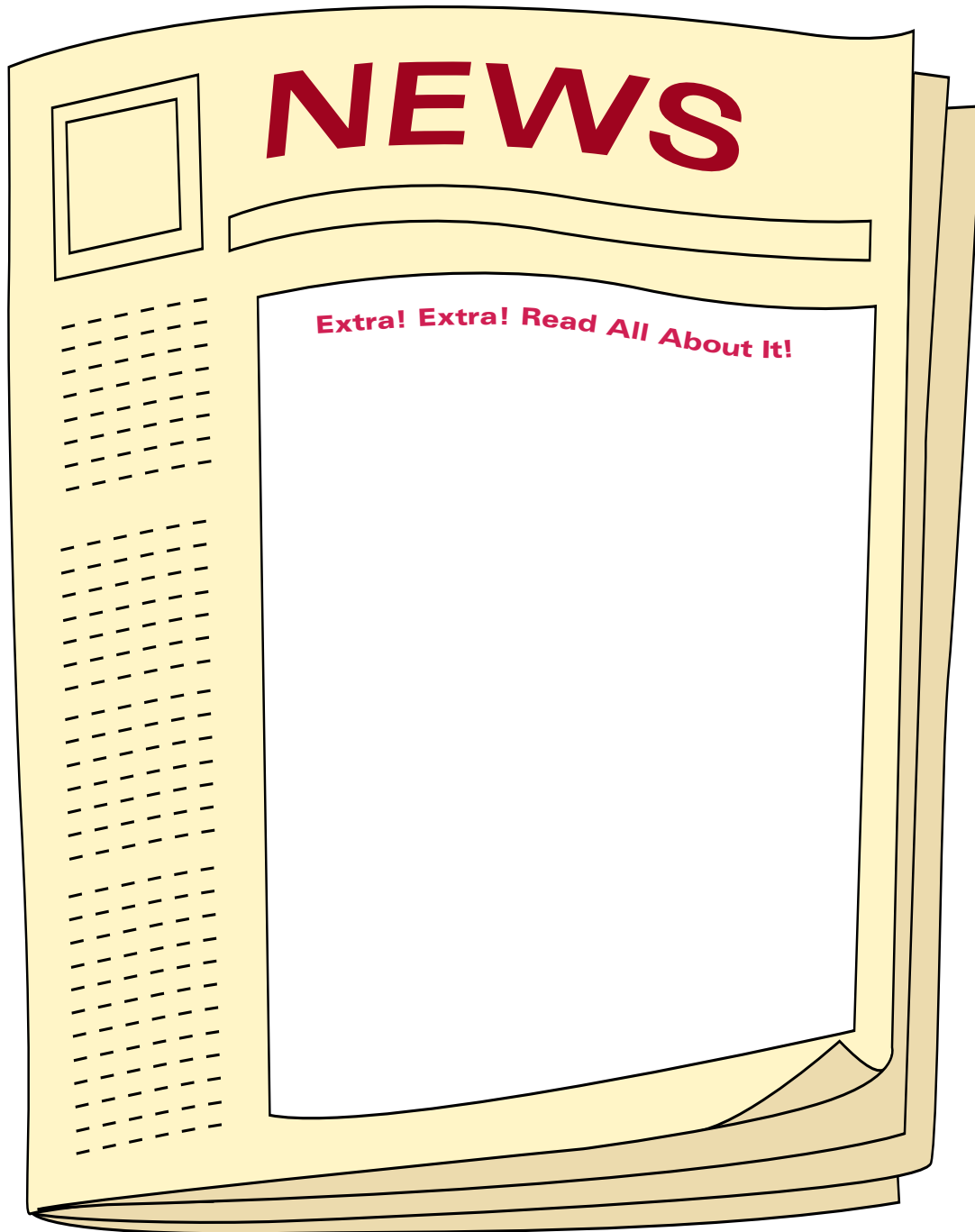
**TAKE ACTION:**

- Look around you... What problems do you notice—in your school, family, neighborhood—that could use imagination to solve? What can you and your friends do today to help?



## 1999 THE FUTURE IS ME

In the space below, draw or write a news story featuring you and something you hope to accomplish someday. For example: "Sarah Stein is the First Woman to Pitch in the Major Leagues!" or "Pedro Lopez, Brain Researcher, Discovers Cure for Autism!"



### TAKE ACTION!

- You're creating your life story every single day. So go out and do something great today— something kind, brave, helpful, fair, generous, intelligent, etc.! You don't have to make headlines to make a difference in the world.
- In a journal or notebook, keep a list of the things you do that make a difference every day.



## 2000 FREE TO BE YOU AND ME

Have you heard *Free to Be You and Me*? The songs and stories on this CD, first produced in 1972, question gender stereotypes—Who says boys can't play with dolls? Who says girls can't compete or run like the wind?—and send the message that you can be and do anything in your life, whether you're a boy or a girl.

We've come a long way since the 1970s. Today women can be lawyers and men can stay home and take care of children—and not be looked down upon. Even so, many people still have strong opinions about the roles males and females should play in society. Do you?

Take this quiz with a friend or family member and compare your answers. You may be surprised by what you think!

*Place an X on each line indicating your opinion.*

- |  |             |                |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| 1. A woman can be just as effective a President as a man.  | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 2. Boys need to be athletic to be popular.                 | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 3. I feel free to be who I am at school.                   | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 4. Boys are better than girls in most sports.              | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 5. Men make better bosses than women.                      | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 6. Women are better than men at taking care of children.   | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 7. I feel free to be who I am in my family.                | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 8. Girls need to be pretty to be popular.                  | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 9. Men are better than women at working and earning money. | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 10. Girls are more in touch with their feelings than boys. | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 11. Boys and men shouldn't cry in public.                  | agree _____ | disagree _____ |
| 12. I feel free to be who I am with my friends.            | agree _____ | disagree _____ |

### TAKE ACTION!

- Take the quiz with a friend or family member and compare your answers. Discuss any differences in opinion.
- Where do your opinions come from: Parents? Friends? TV or movies? Are your opinions really your own?
- Try to avoid rigid, all-or-nothing thinking. You can avoid stereotyping either "boys" or "girls" as a group by using the word "some." For instance, rephrase the blanket statement "Guys like to roughhouse" to "Some guys like to roughhouse." "All girls like to talk on the phone" becomes "Some girls like to talk on the phone."
- Stay true to who you are, regardless of what someone else or society thinks boys or girls should do or be. Your life isn't a boy thing or a girl thing, it's a you thing!






## 2001 GIRL FORCE

Congratulations! You are a member of the legendary Girl Force that can solve any problem, small or gargantuan. You and your Girl Force friends have extraordinary skills and powers. You can build cities. You can turn time backwards. You can harness the full force of the winds. You can change hearts into gold. You can fly. You are smarter than Albert Einstein and more courageous than Amelia Earhart. Using your powers only for good, Girl Force goes out of its way to help one person or an entire galaxy.

Create a Girl Force cartoon. Use the smarts, skills and superpowers of Girl Force to tackle one of these problems—or come up with a new scenario of your own.

- The last remaining snow leopard on earth is being tracked by poachers...
- Magazines feature so many images of “perfect” girls, girls everywhere feel crummy about their looks and are going on crazy diets...
- People, babies, cats and dogs are all stranded on roofs after a devastating hurricane...
- The soup kitchen has run out of soup. A long line of homeless people stand outside, hungry and cold...
- An oil tanker ruptures its hull on an iceberg, and the oil is spilling into the ocean. Millions of aquatic creatures—from fish to porpoises to herons—are in danger...
- A boy is being bullied after school by older boys. He is afraid to walk home and hides in the library...

## Girl Force!

 You go here		<b>Help!! The problem...</b>
	<b>...Girl Force saves the day again!</b>	

### TAKE ACTION!

- You might not be able to fly, but that doesn't mean you can't make a big difference in the world, starting today. Look around you: what needs changing for the better? Talk to other people and ask them to join you—girls and boys, adults and kids—because there is great power in numbers.



## 2002 CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS

You are an advice columnist for a city newspaper. When something gets out of balance in a person's home life, work life, or both, they write to you for advice. Everybody loves reading what you have to say. Your answers are always wise, creative, and often funny too.

Read the following letters. What's your advice? Write your responses on a separate page.



Ask \_\_\_\_\_  
(fill in your first name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Keeps Families Working... & Playing!  
(She or He)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I've noticed that you get lots of letters from parents whose kids play sports. I'm a mom and I play sports too. I've been captain of a local volleyball team for 5 years. My 10-year-old daughter Amy loves acting and has a part in the school play. Here's the problem: my team has a championship playoff on the opening night of the play! I've told Amy that her dad will come the first night and I will come the next, but she's upset. What do you think I should do? My team needs me and so does my daughter.

Sincerely, Team Player

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm a lawyer. My father is very old and lives several hours away from here. Next week he has to go to the hospital for surgery and the doctor says he shouldn't go home alone. There aren't any other family members nearby, so dad needs me to stay with him for a few days while he recuperates. Normally, I'd be happy to do this, but next week I have to argue an important case in district court. What should I do?

Sincerely, Dutiful Daughter



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

My wife and I are young architects and just had our first child. We both took 3 months off from work to care for our baby boy. Our maternity and paternity leaves are about to end, so it's time to find childcare and head back to work. I'm considering taking a year off to be a stay-at-home Dad. My wife thinks it's a good idea, but my brother thinks it will hurt my career. He says future hiring managers won't take me seriously as a committed architect. What should I do? I don't want to lose ground in my career and I don't want to miss a minute of my son's first year.

Sincerely, Dad Committed to Work & Family

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm an emergency room nurse. I love my work, but it's very stressful. I treat accident victims and very sick people all day long and don't have a minute to sit down. My wife finishes work earlier than me, so she picks up the kids from after-school and makes dinner. She'd like me to help the kids with homework and bedtime, but I'm so stressed out and tired after work that I'm not much help. My wife says I don't pull my weight at home and that my kids deserve better. She's right, but I don't know how to change things. Your advice?

Sincerely, Nurse Needs a Nurse



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm a single mom who works two jobs to put food on the table for me and my two kids who are 7 and 9. All my life I've dreamed of owning a catering company. I just got accepted to a competitive two-year college program that will teach me how to start and run my own business. This is the opportunity I've been waiting for! I even received a full scholarship. It all sounds perfect, however classes meet four evenings a week, so I won't get to see my kids on those nights. Their grandmother has agreed to babysit for them, but she's pressuring me to postpone school for 5 years until the kids are older and more independent. I want to do what's best for my kids and what's best for my future. What do you advise? Should I go to school now or wait?

Sincerely, Fork in the Road

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm an administrative assistant at a successful medical research company. I'm committed to my job and work late into the evenings. My company just opened a lab in partnership with the local high school so we can mentor students interested in science careers and give something back to the community. I like this idea! Here's the problem: my boss has asked me to volunteer 5 hours a month to coordinate the mentoring program. I don't have a single extra minute in my day! This would mean coming in earlier or staying even later without any extra pay. How can I say "no" without giving the message that I'm not supportive of the company?

Sincerely, Stretched Thin

### TAKE ACTION!

- Take a close look at your own life. Even though you don't work a full-time job like the people in most of these letters, you probably do have to juggle a lot of responsibilities and activities every week, if not every day. Do your days ever get stressful? If so, what might you do to better manage your time?
- Talk to your parents or other adults you know about how they balance their work, family and community lives.

## 2003 A NEW GENERATION AT WORK

You are a member of a new generation that is growing up to change the world for the better. Peer into your future, 20 years from today. What do you see? What change will you be creating? Draw your future in the boxes below. Don't forget to title your drawings!

ME AT WORK	ME IN THE COMMUNITY
<p>Title _____</p> <p>Draw yourself at work, changing things for the better.</p>	<p>Title _____</p> <p>Draw yourself in the community, changing things for the better.</p>

**Questions to ask yourself before you draw:**  
**20 years from today, what kind of work will you do?**  
**Where do you work? What does your workplace look**  
**like? Who else works with you?**

**Questions to ask yourself before you draw:**  
**20 years from today, what kind of community will you live in? What does it look like? Who else lives there? What kind of things will you be doing to change this community for the better?**

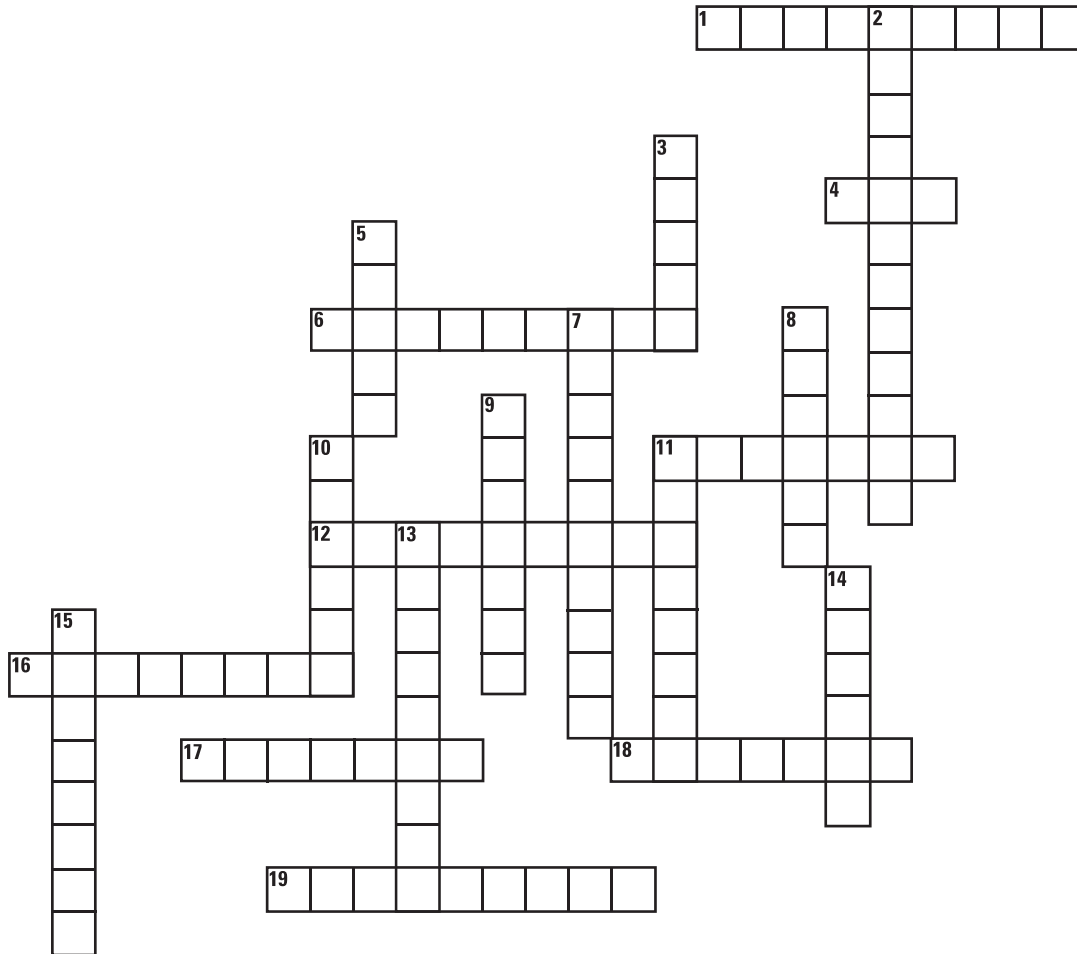
## TAKE ACTION!

- Share your drawings with other kids and talk about the different ways you dream of changing the world for the better.



## 2004 TODAY'S VISION, TOMORROW'S REALITY

What work do you picture yourself doing in the future? The possibilities are endless! Complete this crossword puzzle to learn about just a few of them...



### Across

1. I help people solve personal problems
4. Bring your sick cat, dog or iguana to me
6. I tend lions, tigers and bears, oh my!
11. I'm all about teeth
12. I make and maintain the Web site
16. I write music for symphony orchestras
17. Call me when the faucets are dripping
18. I use sticks to play my instrument
19. Books and information are my specialty

### Down

2. I dig for dinosaur bones and other artifacts
3. I get up early to make pastry and bread
5. I make you laugh at the circus
7. I'm a foot doctor
8. I help writers with punctuation and words
9. I'm in charge of the art in a museum
10. I argue cases before a judge and jury
11. I organize and instruct actors on the stage
13. I deal in hives and honey
14. I race thoroughbred horses
15. I am the leader of a state

### TAKE ACTION!

- What is a job that really interests you? Talk to an adult—a teacher, parent, librarian, or someone already in this field—to find out more about it. The clearer the vision you have today, the easier to make it a reality tomorrow!



## 2005 SHARING POWER & POSSIBILITY

Whatever work you want to do when you grow up—whether you want to become an actor, an architect, an acrobat, or even the president—one thing's certain: you'll be a lot more successful, and have a lot more fun, if you know how to work well with others.

In the box of letters below are words that relate to sharing and working well with others. The words are spelled in lots of ways: left to right, right to left, up to down, down to up, and diagonally. Using a continuous line, circle the consecutive letters which spell a quality. Some of the words may cross each other and use the same letter.

**Do your best to have:** goodwill, gusto, humor, integrity, morale, patience, rapport

**Try to be:** efficient, fair, friendly, generous, helpful, honest, kindhearted, reliable

**Don't forget to:** appreciate, brainstorm, collaborate, compromise, congratulate, cooperate, discuss, explain, laugh, lead, learn, listen, negotiate, persuade, praise, reassure, rely, respect, share, support, understand

E	E	N	M	X	D	P	O	U	Y	D	V	S	F	Q	G	N	R	U	K	V	T	V	T	D
L	T	T	I	O	C	N	V	F	L	E	S	I	A	R	P	G	C	G	L	H	B	J	L	E
N	C	A	A	A	R	R	T	W	D	N	D	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	L	R	T
K	A	P	L	R	L	A	A	W	N	S	B	O	W	H	A	C	N	T	K	M	I	F	A	R
K	K	Q	E	U	O	P	L	I	E	P	N	P	U	V	S	G	K	Q	Z	W	J	S	P	A
R	C	L	S	R	T	B	X	E	I	X	Z	M	R	H	F	F	X	O	D	S	J	S	P	E
J	E	O	U	B	S	A	A	E	R	Z	O	V	A	R	O	L	A	O	W	Z	G	Q	O	H
G	Z	S	V	F	M	U	R	L	F	R	W	R	S	S	V	A	O	B	M	L	W	X	R	D
U	I	H	P	G	P	V	A	G	L	U	E	H	L	X	B	G	J	Z	H	C	A	V	T	N
S	N	P	A	E	V	L	H	D	N	O	C	O	M	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	V	J	K	I
T	T	V	R	N	C	O	E	R	E	O	C	N	R	A	E	L	N	L	I	N	L	F	E	K
O	E	W	R	E	N	T	E	H	D	X	C	B	R	A	I	N	S	T	O	R	M	C	S	G
P	G	E	R	E	L	A	M	I	N	E	T	S	I	L	R	A	A	C	D	U	N	U	C	P
D	R	V	S	L	S	I	S	R	X	N	U	I	K	W	J	R	G	R	W	E	O	O	Q	C
M	I	T	Q	S	B	C	A	V	K	N	L	Y	X	Y	T	O	E	N	I	R	O	Z	F	O
S	T	B	U	G	U	X	S	B	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	L	H	T	E	P	B	F	P	H
J	Y	R	V	S	P	E	F	S	L	Q	Z	J	D	G	Y	X	A	N	E	O	E	Z	Q	H
I	E	Y	S	V	O	B	M	O	N	E	W	G	X	U	J	P	E	R	U	I	F	S	H	I
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	E	F	D	F	H	A	Z	G	A	L	D	K	F	H	R	U
N	E	G	O	T	I	A	T	E	H	L	A	J	R	Y	O	T	T	E	N	W	I	T	Q	N
Y	L	Z	W	G	X	R	N	K	M	C	E	I	U	I	E	P	Q	A	R	D	C	I	H	N
O	J	S	Z	E	Y	Z	N	R	C	R	Y	D	R	P	N	P	W	D	V	E	I	E	Z	E
C	Q	X	R	B	N	L	W	J	F	Q	L	A	U	G	H	S	X	V	O	A	E	X	Z	M
C	M	G	F	L	U	I	X	X	F	Y	R	Z	B	S	A	K	W	J	Z	Y	N	C	F	Y
O	T	W	M	S	J	D	L	U	L	G	L	E	T	J	I	C	G	E	I	E	T	A	X	Y



## 2006 SHAPING THE FUTURE

The future isn't as far away as you might think! The future gets shaped by the decisions you make and the actions you take today. Follow the 5 steps below and decide what actions you'd like to take today to shape your future tomorrow...

- Step 1: Read down the left-hand column and check (✓) all of the communities you belong to.
- Step 2: Write the name of each community on the space provided. If you belong to any other communities, write these down under "Others."
- Step 3: Star (☆) communities where you play an active role: you help out, you speak up when something seems unfair, you care about others in the community, etc.
- Step 4: Read down the left-hand column and ask this question about every community: "In my opinion, is there anything that needs changing for the better in this community?" If "yes," circle the name of the community.
- Step 5: Write in the right-hand column the name of three of the "circled" communities and describe one thing that needs changing for the better in each.

### I Am A Part of Many Communities...

A planet: \_\_\_\_\_

A country: \_\_\_\_\_

A state: \_\_\_\_\_

A town: \_\_\_\_\_

A neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

A street: \_\_\_\_\_

A family/families: \_\_\_\_\_

A school: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports team(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Music group(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Clubs/activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place of worship: \_\_\_\_\_

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### If I could change things for the better in 3 communities, this is what I'd change...

#### Community 1

This needs changing for the better

#### Community 2

This needs changing for the better

#### Community 3

This needs changing for the better

### TAKE ACTION!

- Compare answers with your friends (and family members) and decide on actions you can take together to change things for the better—and to shape a better future—in one community. There is power in numbers!





## 1998 IMAGINE A DAY

page 11

## Answer Key

CURE  
WOMAN  
DAYCARE  
MINK  
RACE  
POLLUTION  
BULLIES  
VIOLENCE  
EXTINCTION  
FRUIT  
BOOKS  
PEACE

WORK TO MAKE IT COME TRUE

## 2004 TODAY'S VISION, TOMORROW'S REALITY

page 18

## Answer Key

## Across

1. therapist  
4. vet  
6. zookeeper  
11. dentist  
12. webmaster  
16. composer  
17. plumber  
18. drummer  
19. librarian

## Down

2. archeologist  
3. baker  
5. clown  
7. podiatrist  
8. editor  
9. curator  
10. lawyer  
11. director  
13. beekeeper  
14. jockey  
15. governor

## 2005 SHARING POWER &amp; POSSIBILITY

page 19

## Answer Key

E E N M + + + + Y + + + + + + + + + + D  
+ T T I O + + + + L E S I A R P + + + + + L E  
+ + A A A R + + + D + + U N D E R S T A N D L R T  
+ + P L R L A + + N + + + + H + + + + + I + A R  
+ + + E U O P L + E + + + U + S + + + + W + + P A  
R + L + R T B X E I + + M + H + + + + D + + + P E  
+ E + U + S A A E R + O + A + + + + O + + + + O H  
G + S + F + U R L F R + R + + + + O + + + + + R D  
U I + P + P + A G L + E + + + G + + + + + T N  
S N + + E + L H D N O C O M P R O M I S E + + + I  
T T + R + C O E R E O C N R A E L + + + + + E K  
O E + + E N T E H D + C B R A I N S T O R M C S +  
+ G + + E L A + I N E T S I L + + + + + N U C +  
+ R + S + S I S + + + + + + + + + + R E O O + +  
+ I T + S + C A + + + + + + + + + + E I R O + + +  
+ T + U + U + + B S U P P O R T L + T E P + + + +  
+ Y R + S + + + + L + + + + + Y + A N E + E + + +  
+ E + S + + + + + E + + + + + P E R + + F + + +  
A P P R E C I A T E F + + + + + G A L + + F + + +  
N E G O T I A T E + + A + + + + T + E + + I + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + I + + E + + A + + C + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + R + + + + D + + I + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + L A U G H + + + + + E + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + N + + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + T + + +

## (Over, Down, Direction)

APPRECIATE(1,19,E)  
BRAINSTORM(13,12,E)  
COLLABORATE(12,11,NW)  
COMPROMISE(12,10,E)  
CONGRATULATE(12,12,NW)

COOPERATE(24,13,SW)  
DISCUSS(10,12,SW)  
EFFICIENT(22,17,S)  
EXPLAIN(9,7,NW)  
FAIR(11,19,SE)

FRIENDLY(10,8,N)  
GENEROUS(17,19,NE)  
GOODWILL(17,9,NE)  
GUSTO(1,8,S)  
HELPFUL(9,12,NW)

HONEST(8,10,SW)  
HUMOR(15,4,SW)  
INTEGRITY(2,9,S)  
KINDHEARTED(25,11,N)  
LAUGH(12,23,E)

LEAD(19,19,S)  
LEARN(17,11,W)  
LISTEN(15,13,W)  
MORALE(4,1,SE)  
NEGOTIATE(1,20,E)

PATIENCE(17,18,NE)  
PERSUADE(3,4,SE)  
PRAISE(16,2,W)  
RAPPORT(24,3,S)  
REASSURE(9,11,SW)

RELIABLE(4,11,SE)  
RELY(19,14,SW)  
RESPECT(1,6,SE)  
SHARE(16,5,SW)  
SUPPORT(10,16,E)  
UNDERSTAND(13,3,E)



## Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Shaping the Future Activity Book

### Evaluation Form

To help us learn what you think about the Shaping the Future Activity Book,  
Please answer the following questions and mail this form to the address below.

1. Of the activities in this book, what did you like best?

---

---

2. Which did you like the least?

---

---

3. What would you add or change to make it a better activity book?

---

---

4. What are the two things you learned, through this book, about the world of work?

About yourself? About your home-life?

---

---

5. About your future?

---

---

6. Did you do any of the activities in this book with someone else? If so, who?

---

---

7. Next year, would you like to have another Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Activity Book?

---

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8. What else would you like to say about the activity book? About Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day?

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Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Sponsor Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day, Activity Book**

Ms. Foundation for Women, 120 Wall Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10005



## Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day

### Program Form

Let us know what you think about the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® program and you may appear on our Web site. Please answer the following questions and mail this form to the address below.

1. What did you learn on Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Finish this sentence: I love Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day because...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did you learn about your parent/sponsor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Finish these sentences: My future work...  
  
My future family...  
  
My future community...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What do you think it would be like to work and take care of a family?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What company or organization did you attend and what did you learn about the workplace?

Full Name\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Sponsor Name\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Sponsor Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day, Activity Book**

Ms. Foundation for Women, 120 Wall Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10005

A NEW **generation**  
AT **work**

**MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN**

**120 Wall Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10005**

**[www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org](http://www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org)**

SAMPLE EXCUSED ABSENCE FORM FROM WORKPLACES  
(LETTERHEAD)

On April \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and its employees will participate in the annual  
(date) (year) (company name)

**Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day** sponsored by the Ms. Foundation for Women.

\_\_\_\_\_ and its employees invite their daughters, sons, relatives, friends, and other  
(company name)  
sponsored girls and boys between the ages of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ to attend. The girls and boys will be  
participating in interactive learning activities, which will lead this *New Generation At Work*  
towards a future where they can participate fully in work, family, and community.

It is the intent that the employees of \_\_\_\_\_ will serve as role models and will  
(company name)  
inspire the girls and boys to strive to attain their full potential. Moreover, girls and boys will  
discover how courses such as science, math, English, and business can better prepare them for a  
wide variety of jobs and the skills needed to be hired in specific professions.

Parent/Guardian/Sponsor, please fill out the bottom of this form and have the participating  
student take it to her/his teacher or principal to sign. You may keep the paper, or it may remain at  
the school.

Parent or Guardian or Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

.....

I excuse \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the **Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day**,  
(student's name)

April \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. If necessary, the student should complete the following work to make up for  
(date) (year)  
the excused absence.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(teacher or principal)

**TAKE OUR daughters  
and sons TO WORK™**

[www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org](http://www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

On Thursday, April 27 2006, the Ms. Foundation for Women will celebrate Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> Day – the new program, with new goals, and interactive workplace activities. Find more detailed information about the new program below.

## 1. What is the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> program?

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> encourages girls and boys across the country to dream without gender limitations and to think imaginatively about their family, work and community lives. This national, public education program connects what children learn at school with the actual working world. Children learn that a family-friendly work environment is an employer and family issue and not just a woman's issue. Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work helps girls and boys across the nation discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life.

## 2. Why did the Ms. Foundation launch Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup>?

The Ms. Foundation for Women launched Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> in April 2003 to broaden the discussion about the competing challenges of work and family. For girls to achieve their full potential, whether it is in the home, workplace, or community, boys also must be encouraged to reach their potential by participating fully in family, work, and community.

Girls and boys want and envision a future in which they can be involved in all parts of their lives. In a study conducted by the Families and Work Institute, 90 percent of students who said they plan to have a job, also plan to have children. What's more is that 81 percent of those girls and almost 60 percent of boys said they will reduce their work hours when they have children.

During the ten years we organized Take Our Daughters To Work<sup>®</sup> Day, we realized how difficult it will be for children to realize those expectations. While we were creating opportunities for girls and women, men were thanking us for creating a day when they could be "public fathers" in the workplace. They reported that if they left early for a parent-teacher conference or to care for an ailing relative, the unspoken rules of the workplace assumed work was not their top priority. Such challenges are even greater for the thousands of adults working multiple, low-wage jobs just to survive.

The stories we heard from men through Take Our Daughters To Work<sup>®</sup> Day echoed those we had heard from working women for decades—working adults want to be more involved in their families' lives, but fear that caregiving responsibilities limit their job possibilities and chances for advancement at work. National research confirms these fears. In a study conducted for Johnson & Johnson by the Families and Work Institute, 41.5 percent of employed mothers and fathers agreed that employees who put their family or personal needs ahead of their jobs are not looked upon favorably.

By creating an opportunity for girls and boys to share their expectations for the future in the context of seeing new opportunities, we will begin a conversation about the changes girls and boys hope for.

## 3. How is the new program different from Take Our Daughters To Work<sup>®</sup>?

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> reaches *A New Generation At Work* and introduces girls and boys to a discussion about the future of their workplace.

Today's girls and boys dream about being doctors, basketball stars, and President of the United States, and we support and encourage those dreams. Naturally many of these children assume they will have a family as well. Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> provides a forum for girls and boys to share their ideas about the workplace of the future, directly with the companies that will someday employ them.

With the Families and Work Institute, we have designed interactive workplace activities to encourage girls and boys to think now about how their dreams—both for their work and family lives—can be achieved. For example, if they plan to have a job that requires them to travel or work a night shift, who will take care of things at home? Can responsibilities be shared to create a nurturing environment for children, and for adults? The activities are fun, encourage lots of dialogue, and engage girls and boys in thinking about work and home life in ways they may never have before.

#### **4. Why is the program called “OUR” Daughters And Sons?**

When we say “Our Daughters And Sons” we mean more than our own children. The Ms. Foundation encourages workplaces and individuals to ensure all our nation’s daughters and sons participate in the program by inviting children from housing authorities and shelters, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends, and more, to join them for Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day. Through this program, adults can show girls and boys opportunities they would have otherwise never known existed.

Ensuring girls of all races, ethnicities, and economic circumstances participated in Take Our Daughters To Work® Day was always a major component of the program and is something we are committed to continuing in the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® program.

#### **5. Why a school day?**

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day is organized during the school year so girls and boys can take what they learn in workplaces on Thursday and apply it to the classroom on Friday. By involving whole communities—schools, girls and boys, parents, workplaces, and mentors—the program helps young people make connections between what they learn in school and their future goals.

In fact, many girls participated in Take Our Daughters To Work® Day through their schools, especially in low-income communities. Teachers helped workplaces “adopt” whole classrooms for the Day, allowing children to walk through doors they otherwise would not have the chance to enter.

By sticking to a national date—the fourth Thursday in April—communities and schools plan ahead and work together to create a dynamic interaction between the workplace and the classroom. And by participating on the official date of the program, a young person recognizes that s/he is one of millions helping to shape the future.

We conducted a poll with RoperASW for the 10th Anniversary of Take Our Daughters to Work® Day. Our findings revealed that the program increased girls’ interest in education, influenced their decision to go to college or professional school, and broadened girls’ thinking about their goals and aspirations with reference to work opportunities. The new program is an educational experience for all of our nation’s daughters and sons.

#### **6. How do I contact the Ms. Foundation® for more information?**

For more information about how to organize the Day call (800) 676-7780 or email us at [tods@ms.foundation.org](mailto:tods@ms.foundation.org).

#### **7. What is the theme for 2006?**

*Shaping the Future* is the 2006 theme for Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day.

#### **8. What is the national date of the program?**

The national date for Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® is always the fourth Thursday in April. This year the date falls on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

#### **9. Who sponsors Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day?**

Our sponsors are companies and organizations that recognize the potential in young girls and boys and are committed to helping them access and realize opportunities. For a list of companies and workplaces that sponsor the Day, visit the [Sponsor](#) page of the website.

#### **10. What is the recommended age and why?**

The Ms. Foundation recommends the program for girls and boys ages eight to twelve. While children who are older than twelve may benefit from the program, it has been our experience that children under eight tend to be facing different issues and simply do not benefit from the program in the same way. We find that due to issues like attention span, reading comprehension, etc. the day doesn't speak to their experience. However, there are many ways to incorporate these discussions into girls' and boys 7 and under lives - it just requires a little creativity and planning!

However, while we provide a national, suggested age range for participants it is ultimately at the discretion of an individual workplace to decide on appropriate age range for their program, especially when safety is an issue.

# Shaping the Future



**Shaping the Future** is the 2006 theme for Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> Day. The theme plays a vital role in shaping the outcomes of the Day and is the basis of our broad range of unique activities. We encourage you to use the theme as a guide for your day. By coordinating the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> program at your workplace, volunteers, parents, and other adults create a vehicle in which our nation's daughters and sons can:

- Connect their school work with the real world;
- Share their vision, turning it into tomorrow's reality;
- Figure out how their future work, home, and community life fit together;
- Explore a variety of job options and learn the types of things they like to do;
- Learn about the work their parents, mentors, and/or other relatives conduct and its importance to the workplace;
- Learn about the workplace—how it functions, its goals, mission, products and services;
- Discover there are limitless opportunities available to them;
- Build their self-esteem; and
- Understand the importance of sharing power and possibility, and through working together they can build a more equitable world.

The Ms. Foundation for Women, creators of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work<sup>®</sup> program, believes that your workplace has the power to direct girls and boys along their life map (path). The activities you implement on your day will garner results that allow girls and boys to take what they learned and apply it to their daily lives, in the classroom, and most importantly in their futures. Help them construct a plan to achieve success in all areas of their lives— school, home, community, and their future work lives.

**Shaping the Future** represents girls and boys discussing, sharing, and creating the future they envision for their lives. From how they want their work, home, and community lives to be to how they want the world to be.

**Shaping the Future**, allows girls and boys to think critically about what the world is like now and determine if that will work for them in the future. If not, then this is where they begin to shape themselves and the world into what they want.

**Shaping the Future** is about changing lives, different roads, and choices.

As you begin to think of unique ways to incorporate the Shaping the Future theme, here are some creative ways and activities that can be implemented at the workplace:

- Have a Brainstorm & Discussion: List ways to shape the future, the world, the nation, and themselves. Explore the feasibility of the listed suggestions and determine how to make them feasible if they are not and how to implement the list. Discuss what the "shaped" future looks like.
- Exploration Nation: Explore the future of education, technology, workplaces, social security and other government policies.
- Q&A It!: What does your future look like? How should society look? How should workplaces look? What are the benefits to these "new looks?"



# Americans Still Not Ready for Powerful Women

**Many believe society is not comfortable with women in powerful positions.**

- According to the large majority, most Americans are not yet comfortable with women holding the most important and powerful positions in either business (75%) or government (77%). Women lack access to top positions in business and politics—even though they have proven their abilities and expressed interest.
- More than three-quarters of Americans (77%) disagree that women are not getting access to the power positions in business because they have not proven their abilities—and 57% disagree strongly. In addition, seven in ten (73%) disagree that women are not really interested in taking on leadership roles in business or politics.

**This lack of comfort with women in the corridors of power is perceived to be a serious stumbling block for women.**

- Eighty-four percent say in order to broaden women's opportunities, there need to be more women business leaders.
- Seventy-eight percent of Americans say the same about government—that in order to broaden women's opportunities, there need to be more women political leaders.

**There is strong agreement among all Americans that women should hold more prominent positions in both business and politics.**

- Eighty-four percent also agree that having more women in leadership positions in government and politics will lead to more women being accepted in leadership positions in business.

**Many feel boys still have more work opportunities.**

- While the majority of Americans (56%) believe boys and girls have the same number of work opportunities open to them, one out of three adults feel boys still have the upper-hand and have a wider choice of opportunities available to them than girls do.

**Americans endorse a variety of efforts to broaden opportunities for girls' tomorrow and achieving fairer treatment of today's working women.**

- Eighty-nine percent of Americans say girls and women need to be taught more about the opportunities available to them.
- Seventy-nine percent say employers need to make a greater effort to promote women.
- Seventy-five percent of Americans say that in order to achieve more gender equality, society needs to be more accepting of men holding jobs that have been traditionally held by women.